This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

8.   (Currently Amended) A method performed in connection with an arrangement of nodes representable as a ~~hierarchical~~ graph comprising:

correlating keywords with nodes in which the keywords appear to create an inverted index so that the keywords each appear only once and all nodes containing each of the keywords are indexed to those keywords;

maintaining a thesaurus of synonyms for at least some of the keywords;

receiving an input from a user containing a meaningful word;

searching the inverted index to determine whether the meaningful word is a keyword and, if the meaningful word is a keyword, jumping to a node identified in the inverted index as correlated to that keyword, otherwise,

searching the thesaurus to determine if the meaningful word is a synonym for at least one particular keyword and, if the meaningful word is the synonym, using the synonym to identify the at least one particular keyword, and

jumping to at least one node correlated to the at least one particular keyword.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

creating the thesaurus by analyzing at least two files and determining synonymy among application meaningful words contained therein based upon a frequency of co-occurrence among the application meaningful words.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series of nodes;

an inverted index correlating keywords with the nodes;

a thesaurus correlating at least some keywords with synonyms for those keywords;

a processor executable learning procedure configured to, upon receipt of a term that is

identified as neither a synonym nor a keyword based upon a search of both the inverted index

and the thesaurus,

(a) identify the term as at last one particular synonym for at least one particular

keyword and

(b) correlate the term with the at least one particular keyword,

so that when a subsequent user provides the term the system will operate as if the term was

synonymous with the at least one particular keyword.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising:

a set of verbal descriptions for at least some of the nodes.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the nodes is a service node.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 further comprising an interactive voice

response system and wherein the ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series of nodes is part of the interactive

voice response system.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series

of nodes is part of a file system browser application.

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15.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series

of nodes is part of a navigation system for television listings.

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series

of nodes is part of one of a document navigation or a document retrieval system.

17.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the ~~hierarchically arranged~~ series

of nodes is part of a geographic information system.

18.   (Currently Amended) A transaction processing system, having ~~a hierarchical~~ an

arrangement of nodes and configured to interact with a user so that the user can navigate among

the nodes ~~in the hierarchy~~, the system comprising:

        an inverted index correlating keywords with at least some of the nodes in the ~~hierarchical~~

arrangement so that when the user interacts with the system and provides an input in response to

a verbal description from one node ~~in the hierarchy~~ and the response includes a meaningful word

correlatable with a keyword, the system will identify at least one node that is correlated to the

meaningful word by the inverted index and jump to that at least one node without first traversing

any other node.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising:

        a thesaurus correlating at least some of the keywords with synonyms for the at least some

keywords.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising:

        at least one stored learned word correlated to a keyword.

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